



The following are suggestions to nurture prayer in a congregation. Check the ELCA Prayer Web page [www.elca.org/prayer](http://www.elca.org/prayer) for more suggestions.

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- Plan a 24-hour prayer vigil during Lent or Advent, which includes people of all ages. Post a list of people and prayer concerns for those coming to take part in the vigil - including individual, congregation, community, national and global concerns.
- Offer prayer workshops for youth, adults and others. Check to see if your synod's education team has someone who can help you plan.
- Provide a daily e-mail devotion written by and for the members of your congregation. You might include it as a part of your congregation's web page.
- Offer a retreat on spiritual direction and faith formation. Check with your synod or retreat center for help with the program. Distribute small stickers people can affix to their watches or computer screens as reminders of the call to pray for others.
- Encourage the formation of prayer partners (person to person or family to family).
- Reinvigorate "routinized" prayer through seasonal emphases (e.g., before Thanksgiving, invite all families to pray, using the second verse of the common table grace: "Blessed be God who is our bread; may all the world be clothed and fed.")
- Create a prayer chain or poster that could be displayed in the narthex or fellowship hall. Encourage each person or family to provide a prayer concern as a link in the chain or as an entry on the poster.
- Order *Growing Your Congregation's Prayer Ministries* as a study resource and pull together a team to enhance and broaden your congregation's prayer ministry options (e.g., a dedicated prayer "chapel" or space in your building, prayer teams that gather before and during worship, prayer chains, etc.).
- Schedule a workshop for parents focusing on how to teach children to pray. Provide resources and inspiration for home prayer and family devotions.
- Find visual ways to remember and pray for your congregation's global mission partners or your synod's companion synod (e.g., empty chairs as part of a meeting or gathering, pictures or a display featuring maps and global art).